

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to congratulate John Furgess, Jr. of Nashville upon his election as the National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

WHEREAS, This General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize those brave citizens of this State who have served this nation in time of war as members of the armed services and have subsequently risen to positions of national prominence as officers and activists in veterans organizations; and

WHEREAS, One such distinguished Tennessean is John Furgess, Jr. of Nashville, who on August 30, 2002, at the VFW 103rd national convention in Nashville, Tennessee, was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the VFW; he is only the second Tennessean to have been elected to that office; and

WHEREAS, Born March 31, 1943 in Langley, Virginia, to Master Sergeant John Furgess, Sr. and Anita Nolan Furgess, John Furgess, Jr. was raised in Nashville and graduated from Father Ryan High School in 1961. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business

from Middle Tennessee State University and graduated from the U.S. Army ROTC program at MTSU; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Furgess served on active duty with the Army Security Agency (ASA) from 1965-70, including a tour in Vietnam from 1967-68 in a Military Intelligence unit at the Americal Division headquarters in Chu Lai; he was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and Vietnam Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, Upon his return to civilian life in 1970, John Furgess joined the National Guard, retiring in 1993 with the rank of Colonel. Also in 1970, he joined VFW Post 1970 in Nashville, becoming a life member in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Furgess quickly rose to positions of leadership in the VFW, serving as Post Commander, District Commander, and, in 1978, Department (State) Commander, the first Tennessee Vietnam veteran to hold that office. He attended the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1979, and was elected a member of the VFW National Council of Administration for 1999-2001; and

WHEREAS, John Furgess's prominence in veterans' circles led to his appointment as Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs on June 1, 1983; he subsequently served under five commissioners during the administrations of governors Lamar Alexander, Ned McWherter, and Don Sundquist, retiring on October 31, 2002; and

WHEREAS, From 1970-80, Mr. Furgess served as Assistant Manager of the Mutual of New York Life Insurance Agency in Nashville; on February 1, 1979, he began writing a newspaper column on veterans' issues for the Westview weekly newspaper in Bellevue, Tennessee, called *Vet's View*; and

WHEREAS, John Furgess is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, and the Retired Officers Association, as well as a long-time member of the American Legion and the Americal Division Veterans Association; he is currently serving a two-year term

on the Veterans Employment and Training Service Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, His many accomplishments in both the military and civilian life aside, Mr. Furgess is fortunate to enjoy the love and support of his wife of 31 years, Alma Furgess; they are the proud parents of three married daughters, Amy Brown, Mary Catherine Conrad and Melissa Springs, and the doting grandparents of Andrew, Will, Christopher and Zachary Brown and Marcus, Kayla, Megan and Kameron Springs; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and appropriate that this General Assembly pause in its proceedings to specially recognize the preeminent honor accorded to John Furgess through his election to high office in the national organization of the VFW; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we join with the members of Post 1970 of the VFW, the national membership of VFW, his family and many friends, and all the citizens of Tennessee in congratulating John Furgess, Jr. upon his election as National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and offer our best wishes for every success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.